



server, sending the reformatted payment order to the merchant's on-line terminal by the service provider's server, endorsing the electronic payment order by the service provider's server, preparing a deposit to an account of the merchant by the service provider's server, sending the deposit with the endorsed payment order to a merchant's bank's server by the service provider's server, posting a credit for the deposit to the merchant's account by the merchant's bank's server, and making details of the deposit available to the merchant by the merchant's bank's server; and

if the customer's bank is the intended recipient, sending the electronic payment order with a request for payment to a customer's bank's server by the service provider's server, debiting an account of the customer for the amount of the payment order by the customer's bank's server, sending an ACH credit to the merchant's bank's server by the customer's bank's server, sending a transaction approval to the service provider's server by the customer's bank's server, reformatting the transaction approval for the merchant's on-line terminal by the service provider's server, and sending the reformatted approval to the merchant's on-line terminal.

50. (New) A system for assumption by a service provider of at least one merchant function in a financial transaction between a customer and a merchant, comprising:

a service provider's server adapted for receiving information about the financial transaction consisting at least in part of an electronic payment order for a merchant from the customer at a customer's computing device via a network;

the service provider's server being adapted for identifying an intended recipient of the information for the merchant consisting of one of a merchant's bank and a customer's bank;

the service provider's server also being adapted for reformatting the electronic payment order for a merchant's on-line terminal, sending the reformatted payment order to the merchant's on-line terminal, endorsing the electronic payment order, preparing a deposit to an account of the merchant, and sending the deposit with the endorsed payment order to a merchant's bank's server, and the merchant's bank's

server being adapted for posting a credit for the deposit to the merchant's account and making details of the deposit available to the merchant, if the merchant's bank is the intended recipient; and

the service provider's server also being adapted for sending the electronic payment order with a request for payment to a customer's bank's server, the customer's bank's server being adapted for debiting an account of the customer for the amount of the payment order, sending an ACH credit to the merchant's bank's server, and sending a transaction approval to the service provider's server, and the service provider's server being further adapted for formatting the transaction approval for the merchant's on-line terminal and sending the reformatted approval to the merchant's on-line terminal, if the customer's bank is the intended recipient.

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